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Environmental Quality Council
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EQ NEWS

Box 215, Capitol Station, Helena, MT 59601

Vol. 1, No. 2

Senator Elmer Flynn, Chairman

August 15, 1973

Fletcher E. Newby, Executi[illegible]

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LAND USE POLICY STUDY

Problems resulting from the rapid division of land and the alteration of its patterns of use affect the quality of virtually all environmental resources. Particularly important in this division and alteration of use pattern are recreational and residential subdivisions and transportation and utility corridors. Survey work performed by the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) staff indicates that the interstate highway system alone has preempted about 14,000 acres of land in the Kalispell, Missoula, Helena, and Bozeman areas. Also, approved subdivision plans filed with the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences during the first seven months of 1972 were 22 percent above those filed for the same period in 1971.

Recognizing this increasingly rapid transition in land use in Montana from agricultural to urban, the Montana legislature last session directed the EQC through House Joint Resolution 9 (HJR 9) to undertake a far-ranging study of Montana land use policies and practices. The legislature also mandated the preparation of recommendations and legislative proposals based on the findings of that study to provide for the protection of the land and associated resources that are in themselves such attractive incentives to development. The EQC land use report, recommendations, and legislative proposals will be completed before the 1975 legislative session.

The EQC has initiated work on the statewide study of land use. Parallel to the study of statewide policies and practices will be a review of land use policies

nationwide and of Canadian policies relevant to Montana. Major study objectives include determining the present status of land use in Montana, trends and prospects of conversion of that land to other uses, and pressures on Montana's land and associated resource base.

The initial phase of the study will identify existing land ownership patterns and the changes which are occurring in those patterns. An attempt will then be made to determine and guage environmental conflicts and public cost that may result. This assessment will require the projection of both resident and transient populations and the identification of secondary effects of population growth. The study will include an attempt to devise a formula "for converting numbers of people into demand as acres of land," as a means of measuring external development costs.

The rationale for land use policy will be reviewed in light of existing state and federal statutory regulations. The conflicts and deficiencies which exist among these statutory controls will be identified. Land use control approaches such as taxation and economic incentives will also be examined. Each review will detail the effectiveness of that technique for evaluating environmental conflicts, and its cost.

By this point in the study a picture of Montana's land supply and the demands for it will have been developed, along with some information on secondary impacts of land conversion. Various implementation options for control will be developed in view of the statewide picture, detailing in part the tools available or needed, the procedures required to implement various options, and the responsibilities of the governing agencies involved. These options range from the extreme of "status quo" to that of no growth. Legislative proposals for promulgating the various policy options will then be drafted to offer a variety of approaches for legislative consideration.

In addition to the HJR 9 mandate, the legislature requested that the governor

appoint an interdisciplinary, interagency advisory committee. In accordance with this request Governor Thomas L. Judge appointed (July 31) a 13-member Interagency Land Use Advisory Council. The Advisory Council will be working with the EQC in studying Montana's land use problems and in formulating recommendations for the implementation of a land use policy for the 1975 Legislature. Steven Brown of the Governor's Office was appointed to chair that council.

Citizen comment about the format and direction of the study is encouraged. Help is needed to identify areas suitable for case study analysis. Please address comments to: Fletcher E. Newby, Exec. Director, Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Station, Helena, Montana 59601.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES -- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF

The following biographical sketches are presented to enable the reader to become acquainted with members of the EQC professional staff and its executive director. We are still seeking applicants for the position of Staff Economist, which remains unfilled.

Fletcher E. Newby, EQC Executive Director, received a B.S. in wildlife technology from the University of Montana (1949) and an M.S. in wildlife management from Washington State University (1951). Before his present appointment he was supervisor for the Department of Fish and Game in Billings, Montana. Newby had previously served in the same agency as state big game manager and state game manager. While in Billings he was deeply involved in Montana environmental concerns and originated such innovative programs as state recreational waterways. Newby's major research and professional interests have been mammalian ecology and human environment. He has authored or co-authored many papers on the mammals of Montana.

Loren L. Bahls, EQC Ecologist, was educated at the University of Minnesota (B.S., 1966), the University of Costa Rica (1970), and Montana State University

(Ph.D., 1971). Following graduation from MSU, Bahls was employed as a principal investigator on the NSF-funded Gallatin Canyon study team. His major interests are aquatic ecology and water quality. While at MSU he taught a graduate level course in freshwater algae and published papers on the use of algae as indicators of water quality and the toxicity of domestic sewage to immature rainbow trout.

Charles E. Brandes, EQC Land Use Analyst, received a B.S. in civil engineering (geologic option) from the University of California at Berkley (1968) and a Master of Regional Planning degree from the University of Pennsylvania (1973). He served as rural water development officer for the government of Kenya, East Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer. Brandes has also worked as a Peace Corps trainer, civil engineer for Contra Costa County, California, Highway Planning section, and as Head Research Assistant for the Center for Ecological Research in Planning and Design. He has co-authored several papers published in regional planning literature.

Walter I. Enderlin, EQC Environmental Engineer, holds a B.S. degree in petroleum engineering (1960) and an M.S. degree in engineering science (1973), both from the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology. Enderlin has held positions as petroleum field engineer and senior systems test engineer and launch director on NASA and Air Force unmanned satellite programs. He also taught environmental engineering courses in air pollution control at Montana Tech, assisted the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology in an economic study of various strip mining situations in Montana, and conducted geothermal research for his Masters thesis, Evaluating Underground Heat Sources in Deep Mines.

Richard David Klinger, EQC Executive Assistant, was educated at Harvard (B.A., 1958), the Sorbonne (1959), and Columbia (Ll.B., 1963) and was admitted to the New

York Bar in 1964. He served as House Counsel to Broadcast Music, Inc. (N.Y.C.) and a television producer of two documentary series for Metromedia, Inc. (N.Y.C.). He has also held positions as Associate Director of Business Affairs for the CBS Television Network, Director of Business Affairs for CBS Records, and Professional Manager of CBS' music publishing companies. Most recently, before joining EQC, Klinger was President of Sage Management, Inc. (Hollywood) as well as an Assistant Professor of Journalism at California State University at Northridge.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

August, 1973

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS - STATE

DATE RECEIVED	SUBJECT	LEAD AGENCY	
8-8-73	Karst Village No. 1. Proposed subdivision located in Gallatin Canyon about 25 mi. so. of Bozeman. 100 acres.	HES	F
8-9-73	Valier Junction - N. & S. County Road Upgrading 11± miles.	Hwy	N
8-14-73	I-15 Dillon South and F-241 (20) Dillon I Connection. New four-lane divided Interstate highway beginning 5.3 mi. so. of Dillon and extending 5.6 mi. to west edge of Dillon.	Hwy	D

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS - FEDERAL

8-14-73	Continental Divide/Kit Carson Nat'l Scenic Trails, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Wyoming. Establishment of 3,100-mi. foot and horseback trail generally following Divide.	USDI/ PED	D

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS - FEDERAL

DATE RECEIVED	SUBJECT	LEAD AGENCY	
8-14-73	Red Rock Lakes Wilderness Area. Proposal recommends 28,850 acres of Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge be designated as wilderness within Nat'l Wilderness Preservation System.	USDI/ PED	D

C - Commented upon
D - Draft statement
EW - Emergency Waiver
F - Final statement
N - Negative declaration

HES - Department of Health and Environmental Sciences
Hwy - Department of Highways
PED - Planning and Economic Development Division -- Department of Intergovernmental Relations
USDI - United States Department of Interior

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